

2007 Acts

Sec. 99. LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY - LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE PLANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the health care trust fund created in section 453A.35A to the legislative services agency for the legislative commission on affordable health care plans for small businesses as enacted by this Act, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, for the purpose designated:

For carrying out the duties of the commission and the health care data research advisory council:

\$ 500,000

Of the amount appropriated in this section, a portion shall be used for the health and long-term-care workforce review to be conducted by the department of public health as described in this Act.

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DIVISION XII

COMMISSION ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Sec. 127. LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE PLANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES.

1. A legislative commission on affordable health care plans for small businesses and families is created for the 2007 legislative interim. The legislative services agency shall provide staffing assistance to the commission.

a. The commission shall include 10 members of the general assembly, three appointed by the majority leader of the senate, two appointed by the minority leader of the senate, three appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and two appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

b. The commission shall include members of the public appointed by the legislative council from designees of the following:

(1) Two members who are small business owners, one designated by the Iowa association of business and industry, and one designated by the national federation of independent business.

(2) One hospital administrator designated by the Iowa hospital association.

(3) Two health care providers, one a physician designated by the Iowa medical society, and one a nurse designated by the Iowa nurses association.

(4) One individual insurance agent designated by the independent insurance agents of Iowa.

(5) One representative of an insurance carrier designated by the federation of Iowa insurers.

(6) One individual health insurance agent designated by the Iowa association of health underwriters.

c. The commission shall include five consumers appointed by the governor.

d. The commission shall include the following members, or their designees, as ex officio members:

(1) The commissioner of insurance.

(2) The director of human services.

(3) The director of public health.

e. At least one of the members appointed or designated pursuant to paragraph "a", "b", or "c" shall be a member of a racial minority group.

2. The chairpersons of the commission shall be those members of the general assembly so appointed by the majority leader of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. Legislative members of the commission are eligible for per diem and reimbursement of actual expenses as provided in section 2.10. Consumers appointed to the commission by the governor pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph "c", are entitled to receive a per diem as specified in section 7E.6 for each day spent in performance of duties as members, and shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of duties as members of the commission.

3. The commission shall review, analyze, and make recommendations on issues relating to the affordability of health care for Iowans including but not limited to:

a. The benefits and costs of requiring all residents of Iowa to have health insurance coverage, including but not limited to individual mandates and proposals from other states.

b. The benefits and costs of providing health insurance coverage to all children in the state, with a particular emphasis on children's health issues.

c. Uninsured and underinsured Iowans with a special focus on determining the characteristics of the uninsured and underinsured populations, why such persons are uninsured or underinsured, and the most effective and efficient means to provide insurance coverage to such persons, including through government programs.

d. Major factors and trends that are likely to impact the cost of premiums and affordability of health care during the next ten years, including but not limited to effects of mandates, levels of coverage, costs and pricing of treatments, cost-sharing and cost-cutting measures, cost-shifting measures, collaborative opportunities, subsidies, reinsurance plans, risk pooling, and wellness and disease prevention initiatives.

4. The commission shall utilize the expertise of the health care data research advisory council in carrying out the commission's duties.

5. The commission may hold public hearings to allow persons and organizations to be heard and to gather information.

6. The commission may request from any state agency or official information and assistance as needed to perform the review and analysis required in subsection 3. A state agency or official shall furnish the information or assistance requested within the authority and resources of the state agency or official. This subsection does not allow the examination or copying of any public record required by law to be kept confidential.

7. The commission may employ staff and consultants as necessary to assist the commission in carrying out its duties as set forth in this section.

8. The commission shall complete its deliberations in December 2007 and submit a final report to the general assembly for consideration during the 2008 Legislative Session, summarizing the commission's activities, analyzing issues studied, making recommendations for legislative reforms that will make health insurance coverage more

affordable for small businesses and families in this state, and including any other information that the commission deems relevant and necessary.

Sec. 128. HEALTH CARE DATA RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

1. A health care data research advisory council is created for the purpose of assisting the legislative commission on affordable health care plans for small businesses and families in carrying out the commission's duties by conducting research, providing research data and analysis, and performing other functions within the expertise of the members of the council at the direction of the commission.

2. The council membership shall be appointed by the legislative council and shall include but is not limited to the following:

- a. A representative of the university of Iowa college of medicine.
- b. A representative of the university of Iowa college of dentistry.
- c. A representative of the university of Iowa college of pharmacy.
- d. A representative of the university of Iowa college of nursing.
- e. A representative of the university of Iowa college of public health.
- f. A representative of Des Moines university - osteopathic medical center.
- g. A representative of the Drake university college of pharmacy.
- h. A representative of an Iowa college of health sciences.
- i. A representative of the Iowa public health association.

Sec. 129. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.